



# Tapu'itea

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Friday  
October 13,  
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 27



## *Governor Togiola returns from successful Hong Kong investment conference*

**(UTULEI)** – Governor Togiola Tulafono returned to the Territory on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> after completing an investment mission to Hong Kong to broaden American Samoa's opportunities in the Asia Pacific region.

In the week long visit to the investment conference -- American Real Estate and Services Exhibition and Seminar at MIPIM (French acronym: "Marché International des Professionnels de l'Immobilier," or 'International Market for Property Professionals) Asia--coordinated by the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce through the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, Governor Togiola said the trip was a huge success because it allowed American Samoa to meet with potential investors while encouraging friendly and productive relationships among the American Samoa Government and business entities in China, as well as the U. S. Commercial Service office in Hong Kong.

"This very successful mission was an opportunity to speak directly to Asia Pacific investors that converged on Hong Kong," said Governor Togiola. "I am very happy with the outcome of the meetings and the many inquiries from potential investors. This is the region that we should be targeting from now on in business development and creating partnerships between ASG and businesses in Asia. Hong Kong is truly a good market on its own and, as we found out, an excellent gateway to mainland China for small and medium-size enterprises."

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maintain contacts with all companies that have expressed interest, many of them who have never heard of Tutuila and Manu'a. Some of them have already sent their requests for further information to review while contemplating visits to American Samoa in the near future.

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"Most of the people that we met in Hong Kong have heard of Samoa and its popularity in the annual Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament, but were surprised that there was an American Samoa," Governor Togiola. "We have a lot to offer and it is very important now to maintain continuity in reaching out to investors in Asia to make sure that they know us. Our visit to Hong Kong broke new ground for new opportunities that will benefit our business development. We have learned in our one week visit that we must take advantage of the numerous business opportunities in Hong Kong in promoting American Samoa, the name itself, as well as an investment location."

Governor Togiola focused on five primary investment areas: Eco-Tourism and Golf Course Development in the Manu'a Islands, Tramway Development between Solo Hill in Utulei and Mount Alava, Pago Pago Bay Marina and Marine Railroad Development, Rainmaker Hotel Condominium and Time Share Development, and ASG Property in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Between the exhibition and seminars, Governor Togiola met throughout the week with officials from industries such as, airlines and travel, hotel and resorts, textile and fashion, real estate and high end properties.

(Continued on page 4)



*These young men and women basketball players, seen here with their coaches, will represent American Samoa in the FIBA Oceania Youth Championships this month in New Zealand.  
(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

## ASCC Students to Compete in Oceania Youth Basketball Championships

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*

Two basketball teams comprised mainly of students from the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will depart this week to New Zealand to compete in the FIBA Oceania Youth Championships. The young men's and young women's teams from American Samoa will compete against their basketball-playing counterparts from Australia, Guam, Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti and host country New Zealand in what Championship officials describe as "a week long sporting and cultural experience."

American Samoa Basketball Association president and ASCC athletics instructor Ed Imo says that the teams began training this past February, following try-outs open to all of American Samoa's young basketball players. Most of the players who made the final cut come from the College because, as Imo explained, relatively few high school students could commit to the team's training schedule and travel plans. However, a handful of high school players from Tafuna and Fagaitua proved able to stay the course over the training period, and now fill one slot on the young men's team and four slots on the young women's team.

According to Imo, teams from American Samoa have participated in the Oceania Championship matches since 1985. The event takes place every two years, with one of the participating countries hosting the Championships on a rotating basis. This year's competitions in New Zealand will take place at the Trusts Stadium, a 4900 square-meter sports and entertainment facility located in Henderson, Waitakere City, which features six basketball courts, as well as six netball courts, eight volleyball courts, and 12 badminton courts. Although American Samoa cannot yet boast of a similarly impressive site for the competitions, Imo says he still intends to lobby for the Territory to host the next Championships in 2008.

The American Samoa Basketball Association, through the Olympic Solidarity Grant, will cover the financing for the American Samoa teams' visit to New Zealand. ASCC students making the trip include Eugene Brown, Niufolau Pua, Ata Perese, Tilo Luani, Poyer Samuelu, Hansel Maiava, Joe Meleah and Christopher Samia on the young men's team, and Leaniva Fanene, Tagi Ripley, Skyline Nua, Hope Hisatake and Faith Hisatake on the young women's team.

The Championship games will take place under the auspices of FIBA Oceania, a division of the International Basketball Federation headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The acronym "FIBA" derives from the French name "Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur". In recent years, this international association has dropped the word "amateur" from its name, but with 213 countries now members of the federation, FIBA maintains its role as the world governing body for anything and everything involved in the game of basketball. Fans in American Samoa can keep tabs on their home teams' performances during the Championships via the FIBA Oceania web site ([www.fibaoceania.com](http://www.fibaoceania.com)).



## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On October 1, 1900**, the first post office was opened at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila. The first postmaster was Mrs. Hudson, whose husband Henry was the Naval Station's (and USS *Abarenda's*) Chief Boatswain.

**On October 1, 1927**, Governor Henry F. Bryan's *American Samoa: A General Report by the Governor* listed the Territory's population as of September 30, 1926 as follows: Eastern District of Tutuila: 4,221; Western District, Tutuila: 2,395; Manu'a District: 2,060 and Swains Island: 87, for a total of 8,763. 2,260 people were listed as taxpayers, who were defined as male Samoans who had "reached the height of 5 feet and 1 inch." (This practice was instituted "due to the lack of early birth records.")

**On October 1, 1927**, Governor Henry F. Bryan reported American Samoa's automobile population "at the end of August, 1926," as follows: "18 passenger cars and 7 trucks privately owned; 2 passenger cars, 3 trucks and 1 ambulance, owned by the Navy; and 5 trucks and 4 busses owned by the island government; a total of 41 automobiles."

**On October 2, 1901**, Dr. Edward M. Blackwell, former Chief Medical Officer of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, was ordered to report to Assistant Secretary of the Navy Frank Hackett, who informed him that former Naval Station Commandant Benjamin Franklin Tilley was to be court-martialled for "drunkenness and immorality."

**On October 2, 1914**, Lieutenant Nathan Woodworth Post relieved Commander Clark Daniel Stearns and became American Samoa's eighth naval governor (acting: for the second time; until December 6, 1914). Lieutenant Post served two non-consecutive terms (March 14-July 14, 1913 and October 2-December 6, 1914. He and Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln (August 2, 1929-March 24, 1931 and July 17, 1931-May 12, 1932) were the only naval governors to do so.

**On October 3, 1955**, the MV *Joyita* left Apia at 0500, with 25 people aboard, "laden with sugar, flour, rice, trade goods, fuel oil and lumber," en route to Tokelau. She was next sighted on November 10, 1955, ninety miles north of Fiji. All who were aboard, and most of her cargo, had vanished; one of the great unsolved mysteries of the Pacific.

**On October 3, 1906**, "Assistant Astronomer Benjamin Boss relieved Assistant Astronomer C.W. Frederick" at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

**On October 5, 1899**, on Tutuila, the U.S. Government purchased "Parcel No. 7: Lotomua," totalling 0.08 acres from "Fanini and Lilo" for \$250.00.

**On October 6, 1942**, Colonel Pierson Conradt relieved Colonel Thomas J. Walker, Jr., as commanding officer of Marine Air Group 13 (MAG-13) at the Tafuna Air Base, Tutuila, American Samoa.

**On October 7, 1839**, the United States Exploring Expedition, commanded by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, sighted Rose Atoll and spent the next 34 days studying the Samoan Islands.

**On October 7, 1901**, Captain Uriel Sebree relieved Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley as Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, and held that office until December 16, 1902.

**On October 7, 1930**, over 300 people, "mostly matais and higher chiefs," gathered at the Poyer School in Atu'u to hear the announcement of the American Samoan Commission's decisions. The Governor, Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln and his staff were present by special invitation. The Commission's Chairman, Senator Hiram Bingham (Republican of Connecticut), read aloud from a list of the Commission's recommendations, which included the rights of American citizenship, a bill of rights, a representative government, the right of appeal to U.S. courts, and no differentiation between part- and full-blooded Samoans for purposes of citizenship.

**On October 7, 1945**, Al Lolotai became the National Football League's first Samoan player. He started with the Washington Redskins as a guard and tackle, but played for only one season. He later had a distinguished career as a wrestler and educator.

**On October 7, 1949**, the tanker USS *Chehalis* (AOG-48) burned, capsized and sank at the oil dock in Pago Pago Harbor.

**On October 7, 1930**, USS *Omaha*, with the American Samoan Commission members aboard, got under way from Pago Pago Harbor on her return voyage to Honolulu.

**On October 8, 1907**, the operating room in American Samoa's hospital was completed.

## Governor Togiola Tulafono asks for investigation on DOE situation

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that Department of Education Director Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele has been placed on a two-week leave of absence as the investigation continues on the situation at DOE.

Governor Togiola has also asked the Attorney General to investigate allegations of DOE employees receiving unauthorized payroll payments and also alleged criminality or misconduct at the department related to this situation.

Governor Togiola has appointed Dr. Claire Poumele as acting director.

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT OR AMEND RULES

Pursuant to American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA) 4.1001 et seq., the Development Band of American Samoa (DBAS) intends to adopt a Procurement Manual. Interested members of the public may review these documents and/or present their written comments on the same at the DBAS CEO's office located at the DBAS Building at Pago Pago, American Samoa from Wednesday, October 11, 2006 until Wednesday, November 8, 2006. DBAS is normally open for business Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Ms. Mary Malauulu at telephone number (684) 633-4031.

## More Historical Notes:

**On October 9, 1942**, the United States military population of the Samoan Defense Group was as follows: Tutuila: 9,320; Upolu: 5,051; Wallis: 3,191, and Funafuti: 1,195.

**On October 11, 1949**, a Court of Inquiry was "Convened at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, American Samoa, by Order of Commander, Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet, to inquire into all the circumstances connected with the explosion of gasoline in USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, the burning of USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, and the capsizing of USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, on October 7, 1949, at Tutuila, American Samoa."

**On October 12, 1922**, the German silver coins which were found behind the former DHPG building in American Samoa on April 10, 1919 (*q.v.*), and which were shipped to the U.S. Navy's Alien Property Custodian on October 3, 1922, were received by the Custodian in Washington, D.C. The money was contained in "one sealed box containing 1,074 two-mark and 356 one-mark German silver coins, for a total of 2,504 marks; 2,506 marks were found April 10, 1919; 2,504 marks were shipped October 3, 1922." (Perhaps a souvenir hunter kept the missing two marks---another unsolved mystery).

**On October 13, 1856**, Eli Hutchinson Jennings---adventurer, shipbuilder, planter and founder of the Jennings clan---landed with his wife Mere (also known as "Maria" and "Malie") on Swains Island and raised the U.S. flag.

## **Hong Kong investment conference** (from page 1)

“We are very thankful for the opportunity to have participated at the Hong Kong conference and I wish to thank the Hon. James Cunningham, U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, and Mr. Stewart Ballard, Chief Commercial Consul in Hong Kong – U.S. Department of Commerce,” said Governor Togiola. “It was our first time and it really enabled us to be accessible to investors of the region who attended the meeting. It allowed us to network and conduct one-on-one meetings. The American Real Estate and Services Exhibition and Seminar (AREAS) within the MIPIM Asia event was a big plus for American Samoa as it guided international investors interested in doing business in the U.S. through the Territory in hearing of duty-free and no quota on exports out of our port.”

Attending the meetings during the investment conference with Governor Togiola were Commerce Director – Faleseu Eliu Paopao, Commerce Deputy Director – Lelei Peau and local businessman – Alex Galea'i of Alamai, IT Solutions and Checkers American Samoa.

In addition to the networking and meetings at the many exhibits of the investment event, Governor Togiola, together with the American Samoa team, held special meetings with many of the firms who have indicated interest to meet Governor Togiola, and to discuss potential developments and investment in American Samoa:

**Mr. Shawn Hill - Marriott International**

**Mr. Bernhard Bohnenberger -Six Senses Resorts and Spas, Thailand**

**Dr. Meng Xiaosau - Chairman of National Real Estate Development Group  
& China Time Share Council**

**Mr. Kai Wang “Kevin” Yeung - Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association**

**Mr. Lucien Gambarota and Mr. Douglas Woodring of Motorwave Co. Ltd**

**Mr. Tony Tyler & Mr. Augustus Tang - Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd**

**Mr. Ronnie Ho - Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong**

**Mr. Steve Alexander - Hong Kong Trade Development Council**

**Mr. Jack Maisano - American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong**

**The Hon. James Cunningham - U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong**

**Mr. Stewart Ballard - U.S. Department of Commerce - Chief Commercial Consul**

The American Samoa participation at the event also received special interest from the Hong Kong media. The Ming Pao News Agency's interview of the governor was published in the Chinese language in its Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> issue.

### **AMERICAN REAL ESTATE AND SERVICES PRESS CONFERENCE**

At the closing press conference, Governor Togiola expressed his thanks to the many investors, developers and exhibitors that visited the American Samoa booth, with the largest number being from mainland China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand, and the farthest from American Samoa being Russia. Governor Togiola also said it was good to have met many corporate hotel and resort representatives from Asia and also Europe and the U.S. because it allowed more opportunities to promote the name of American Samoa.

### **SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES**

**with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.  
Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:**

**[tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as](mailto:tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as)**

**Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.**

**Contact:** Harry Stevens @733-1694 or Vince Iuli @ 733-1041  
or call 633-4116

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